

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	)	Examiner: GAMETT, Daniel C.
Wei-Qiang GAO	)	Art Unit: 1647
Application Serial No. 09/849,868	)	Confirmation No. 1085
Filed: May 4, 2001	)	Attorney's Docket No. 39766-0035 C1
For: HAIR CELL DISORDERS	)	Customer No. 25213
	)	

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**FILED VIA EFS on FEBRUARY \*\*, 2007**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**  
**under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

**Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria Virginia, 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants request continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and submit a Preliminary Amendment in response to the Office Action mailed on December 21, 2006. An Information Disclosure Statement listing references cited in a foreign action with regard to a related foreign case is also submitted with this Preliminary Amendment.

Please enter the following amendments to the claims and to consider the following arguments.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3.

**Remarks** begin on page 11.